



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Senate Bill 653

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

An Act Expanding State Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

We Cannot Use General Workers for this Purpose. The General Worker job classification is not the appropriate job title for creating permanent supported employment positions for individuals with disabilities:

- General Worker positions are 6 month positions, they are not permanent jobs
- Because they are not permanent positions, General Workers do not receive health benefits, holiday pay, or any other accrued benefits
- The General Worker title cannot be used for individuals who may be performing bargaining unit work (i.e. clerical work, etc.)
- If the General Assembly wants to create permanent state positions for individuals with disabilities, these positions should be established within the agencies that will be employing the individuals. From a human resources perspective, it is incorrect to create the positions within DAS.

This Bill Harms Individuals with Disabilities Who are Currently Working. This bill seeks to displace individuals with disabilities who currently work in supported employment environments managed by the non-profit community.

- This bill seeks to terminate contracts that the state has with these non-profit providers who find employment for individuals with disabilities (i.e. janitorial contracts awarded under the disability-preference statute, § 17b-656), and have state employees provide these services.

Cost. Contrary to the testimony by SEIU on this proposal, the cost of this bill the the state would be extraordinary. In addition to the costs of wages and benefits for the 200 employees, an additional 200 or so state positions would have to be created for individuals to provide assistance and support to the employees with disabilities, and additional state positions would have to be created within the agencies to manage the program, create individual work plans for the employees, etc.

Please contact DAS's legislative liaison, Andrea Keilty (713-5267) if you have questions about this matter.

An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer